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LETTER DATED 15 APRIL 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the letter by the President of the Azerbaijani Republic, H.E. Dr. Abulfaz Elchibey, addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, His Excellency Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, as received by fax.

In the letter the President requests that a fact-finding mission be urgently despatched in the next two or three days, in order to obtain detailed information concerning the ongoing aggression conducted by the Republic of Armenia against the Azerbaijani Republic.

I would greatly appreciate it if the letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hassan A. HASSANOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

[Original: Russian]

Letter dated 15 April 1993 from the President of the Azerbaijani Republic addressed to the Secretary-General

I thank you most sincerely for your prompt response to my letter and for conveying the facts contained therein to the President and members of the Security Council, as well as for instructing your representative in Azerbaijan, Mr. Mahmoud al-Said, to ascertain the situation in the field.

Fact-finding is, of course, extremely difficult in areas of military operations. Your representative, whom we tried to help in every way we could, was naturally unable to visit the occupied city of Kelbajar itself, as such a visit was impossible and would have entailed extreme risk to his life.

At the same time, does not the fact that 50,000 refugees - including hundreds of civilian inhabitants suffering from frostbite injuries incurred during their flight through the deep snow of the mountain passes - have been registered by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) amply demonstrate the wide-scale aggression waged by Armenia?

How could the Armenian self-defence forces of Nagorny Karabakh possibly be capable of occupying such an extensive area in a mere two or three days and of expelling such a large number of people from their homes? The aggressor brazenly denies all involvement, hoping once again to delude the international community, as it has succeeded in doing thus far.

I have the deepest respect for the United Nations and all its subsidiary organs and I would not wish the Organization, to which the entire Azerbaijani people looks with hope, to be held hostage to the political intrigues of the various forces endeavouring to support the aggressor and to pass black off as white.

According to the information we have received, the Armenian military leadership will try to hide any trace of its crimes and replace its own troops in the Kelbajar district with those from formations in Nagorny Karabakh. If your efforts to dispatch a United Nations mission to Kelbajar within two or three days do not succeed, this charade may go ahead.

By appealing to you, Sir, I simultaneously appeal to all the members of the Security Council. I appeal to their consciences, to their sense of justice and, finally, to the Lord God in their hearts, who is ever present and all-seeing.

(Signed) Abulfaz ELCHIBEY